

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 SS-15 SPC-03 OPR-02 SY-10 FBO-01

OC-06 CCO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03

RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 A-01 USSS-00 DRC-01 /110 W

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R 172120Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5270

USCINCSO

UNCLAS TEGUCIGALPA 3552

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASAF PINS HO

SUBJ: GOH CROWD CONTROL MEASURES

REF: STATE 183579

1. THE TEXT OF NOTE DELIVERED TO GOH ON SEPTEMBER 14
FOLLOWS:

2. THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA PRESENTS
ITS COMPLIMENTS TO THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS OF
THE REPUBLIC OF HONDURAS AND HAS THE HONOR TO BRING TO
ITS ATTENTION CERTAIN REGRETTABLE EVENTS WHICH OCCURRED
ON SEPTEMBER 12 CAUSING CONSIDERABLE DAMAGE TO THE
CHANCERY LOCATED ON AVENIDA DE LA PAZ IN THIS CAPITAL
CITY.

3. AT APPROXIMATELY 6:00 PM ON SEPTEMBER 12 A CROWD OF
PERSONS GATHERED ON THE AVENUE AND ON THE SIDEWALK IN
FRONT OF THE CHANCERY. A FEW MINUTES LATER MANY OF THE
PEOPLE IN THE CROWD STARTED THROWING FIRE BOMBS (MOLOTOV
COCKTAILS) AND STONES OVER THE CHANCERY'S GARDEN WALLS
AT THE WINDOWS AND BUILDING WALLS AND INTO THE PARKING
LOT. THEY ALSO BROKE AND UPROOTED MANY BUSHES AND OTHER
PLANTS GROWING BETWEEN THE CHANCERY AND THE AVENUE.

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SOME OF THE PLANT MATERIAL WAS SET ON FIRE AT THE FOOT

OF THE MAIN GATE OF THE CHANCERY. THESE VIOLENT ACTIONS CAUSED FIRES, BREAKAGE AND OTHER DAMAGE TO THE PROPERTY OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IN ADDITION TO ENDANGERING THE LIVES OF THE PERSONNEL WHO WERE INSIDE THE CHANCERY AT THE TIME.

4. AT APPROXIMATELY 10:45 PM ON THE SAME DATE AN EXPLOSIVE DEVICE EXPLODED A FEW FEET FROM THE SOUTH-WESTERN WALL OF THE CHANCERY. THIS EXPLOSION CAUSED BREAKAGE AND DAMAGE TO THE WINDOWS AND ROOF OF THE CHANCERY IN THAT AREA AND WINDOW DAMAGE TO NEARBY PRIVATE HOMES.

5. THE EMBASSY PROTESTS THE FAILURE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF HONDURAS TO PREVENT ITS CITIZENS FROM COMMITTING ACTS WHICH ENDANGERED THE LIVES OF EMBASSY EMPLOYEES, CAUSED CONSIDERABLE DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY AND INTERFERED WITH THE NORMAL PERFORMANCE OF FUNCTIONS. THE EMBASSY HEREBY REQUESTS THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS TO INVESTIGATE THE TWO INCIDENTS AND TO TAKE MEASURES TO PREVENT THEIR RECURRENCE.

6. IN ACCORD WITH INTERNATIONAL COMITY, THE EMBASSY EXPECTS THE GOVERNMENT OF HONDURAS TO REIMBURSE THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES FOR THE COSTS INCURRED TO REPAIR AND REPLACE THE DAMAGED AND DESTROYED PROPERTY. THE EMBASSY WOULD ALSO LIKE TO POINT OUT THAT NO REPLY HAS BEEN RECEIVED IN REGARD TO NOTE NO. 72 OF JUNE 1, 1972 AND NOTE NO. 77 OF JUNE 12, 1972 CONCERNING PREVIOUS DAMAGE CLAIMS. AN ITEMIZED LIST OF NEEDED REPAIRS AND REPLACEMENTS ARISING FROM THE LATEST INCIDENTS IS ATTACHED.

7. THE EMBASSY TAKES THIS OPPORTUNITY TO RENEW TO THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS THE ASSURANCES OF ITS HIGHEST AND MOST DISTINGUISHED CONSIDERATION.
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